



Nebraska Agri-Facts

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Mark Harris, Director



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Survey Results Included

- Cattle on Feed
- Annual Milk Production
- Annual Chicken & Eggs
- Potato Stocks
- Agricultural Resource Management Survey
- Crop Values
- Farm Labor & Wages

Dear Nebraska Farmers, Ranchers and Agribusinesses:

The following narrative and tables are from recently published reports by USDA's Agricultural Statistics Board. These data are direct results of information provided by Nebraska producers and agribusinesses to the surveys conducted each month by this office. Thank you for your response to these surveys.

Mark Harris
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Director

Nebraska Cattle on Feed Up 6 Percent

Nebraska feedlots, with capacities of 1,000 or more head, contained 2.49 million cattle on feed on February 1, up 6 percent from last year and 9 percent above February 1, 2004. This is the largest inventory since the series began in 1994. Placements of cattle into feedlots during January totaled 425,000 head, the same as 2005 but 12 percent above 2004. Fed cattle marketings for the month of January totaled 355,000 head, down 1 percent from both last year and two years ago. Other disappearance during January totaled 10,000 head compared with 15,000 head during January 2005 and 20,000 head during January 2004.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Up 7 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 12.1 million head on February 1, 2006. The inventory was 7 percent above February 1, 2005 and 9 percent above February 1, 2004. This is the largest inventory since the series began in 1994. Placements in feedlots during January totaled 2.20 million, 16 percent above 2005 and 25 percent above 2004. Marketings of fed cattle during January totaled 1.81 million, up 2 percent from both 2005 and 2004. Other disappearance totaled 83,000 during January, 14 percent above 2005 but 12 percent below 2004.

Cattle on Feed: Number on Feed, Placements, Marketings and Other Disappearance, 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots, by Month, State, and United States, 2005-2006

State	February 1 Number on Feed ¹			January Placements			January Marketings			January Other Disappearance ²		
	2005	2006	<u>2006</u> 2005	2005	2006	<u>2006</u> 2005	2005	2006	<u>2006</u> 2005	2005	2006	<u>2006</u> 2005
	1,000 Head	Percent		1,000 Head	Percent		1,000 Head	Percent		1,000 Head	Percent	
Arizona	*328	346	105	*30	39	130	*31	26	84	*2	1	50
California	525	550	105	59	71	120	63	62	98	6	9	150
Colorado	1,060	1,110	105	175	225	129	185	185	100	10	10	100
Idaho	270	265	98	37	46	124	61	51	84	1	5	500
Iowa	465	520	112	77	81	105	60	69	115	2	2	100
Kansas	2,420	2,580	107	475	570	120	450	465	103	15	25	167
Nebraska	2,350	2,490	106	425	425	100	360	355	99	15	10	67
New Mexico	129	146	113	18	18	100	13	13	100	2	2	100
Oklahoma	350	375	107	55	65	118	52	57	110	3	3	100
South Dakota	205	210	102	41	38	93	26	32	123	2	1	50
Texas	2,720	3,030	111	425	540	127	395	420	106	10	10	100
Washington	190	153	81	30	33	110	29	31	107	1	1	100
Other States	330	335	102	41	48	117	47	44	94	4	4	100
United States	*11,342	12,110	107	*1,888	2,199	116	*1,772	1,810	102	*73	83	114

* Revised. ¹ Cattle and calves on feed are animals for slaughter market being fed a ration of grain or other concentrates and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better.

² Includes death losses, movement from feedlots to pastures and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding.

Source: USDA NASS Cattle on Feed, February 24, 2006

**Milk Cows: Licensed Dairy Operations, Number, and Milk Produced by Quarter,
Nebraska and United States, 2004-2005**

State and Month	Licensed Dairy Operations		Milk Cows		Production per Cow		Production	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
	<i>Number</i>		<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>Pounds</i>		<i>Million Pounds</i>	
Nebraska								
January - March			61	60			267	268
April - June			60	60			266	279
July - September			61	60			254	263
October - December			61	60			262	267
Annual	450	405	61	60	17,197	17,950	1,049	1,077
United States - Annual	66,825	64,555	9,012	9,041	18,967	19,576	170,934	176,989

Source: USDA NASS Milk Production, February 17, 2006

Chickens: Inventory By Type, Nebraska and United States, December 1, 2004-2005

Item	Nebraska			United States		
	2004	2005	2005/2004	2004	2005	2005/2004
	<i>Thousands</i>		<i>Percent</i>	<i>Thousands</i>		<i>Percent</i>
All Chickens	13,972	13,813	99	453,599	452,816	100
Total Layers	12,003	11,891	99	343,922	347,917	101
Total pullets	1,969	1,922	98	101,429	96,610	95
Other chickens	0	0		8,248	8,289	100

Source: USDA NASS Chickens and Eggs 2005 Summary, February 2006

Eggs: Production, Average Number and Eggs per Layer, Nebraska and United States 2004-2005

Item	Nebraska		United States	
	2004	2005	2004	2005
Eggs Produced (<i>million</i>)	3,174	3,217	89,091	89,960
Average Number of Layers (<i>thousand</i>)	11,766	11,987	341,956	343,501
Eggs per Layer (<i>number</i>)	270	268	261	262

Source: USDA NASS Chickens and Eggs 2005 Summary, February 2006

**Fall Potatoes: 2005 Production and Stocks on
February 1, 2006¹**

State	Crop of 2005	
	Production	Total Stocks Feb. 1, 2006
	<i>1,000 Cwt.</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt.</i>
California	3,240	1,100
Colorado	22,292	11,900
Idaho	116,975	65,000
Maine	15,736	10,000
Michigan	13,920	5,100
Minnesota	17,630	9,000
Montana	3,434	3,300
Nebraska	8,245	4,000
New York	5,226	1,700
North Dakota	20,500	9,000
Oregon	22,023	14,500
Washington	95,480	40,000
Wisconsin	27,880	13,000
Total 13 States	372,581	187,600

¹ Stocks include processor holdings and most of the seed to plant following year's crops.

Source: USDA NASS Potato Stocks, February 15, 2006

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Crop Summary: Marketing Year Average Price and Value of Production, Nebraska and United States, 2003-2005

Crop Summary: Marketing Year Average Price and Value of Production, Nebraska and United States, 2003-2005							
Crop	Prod. Unit	Price			Value of Production		
		2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005
Nebraska		<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>
Corn for Grain	Bushels	2.39	2.02	1.85	2,686,838	2,665,794	2,350,425
Soybeans	Bushels	7.02	5.54	5.50	1,279,395	1,210,490	1,294,315
All Hay (baled)	Ton	54.00	50.50	47.50	407,290	323,853	326,400
Alfalfa Hay (baled)	Ton	55.00	51.00	48.00	287,100	232,713	222,000
All Other Hay (baled)	Ton	50.50	49.00	45.00	120,190	91,140	104,400
Winter Wheat	Bushels	3.22	3.23	3.25	269,578	197,192	223,080
Sorghum for Grain	Cwt.	4.19	3.08	2.85	72,738	55,832	34,713
Dry Edible Beans	Cwt.	17.30	22.80	17.40	54,512	54,173	67,338
All Potatoes	Cwt.	5.05	5.20	5.80	49,207	48,298	47,821
Sugar Beets ²	Ton	42.30	39.90		36,420	41,895	
Proso Millet	Bu.	3.05	3.05	3.30	9,852	10,294	14,025
Sunflower (all)	Cwt.	12.10	14.40	14.10	7,003	7,763	19,998
Sunflower (oil)	Cwt.	10.70	13.00	11.60	4,622	4,550	9,419
Sunflower (non-oil)	Cwt.	16.20	17.00	17.40	2,381	3,213	10,579
Oats	Bushels	1.53	1.51	1.60	10,052	5,134	7,008
Barley ¹	Bushels	1.90	1.80		380	292	
United States							
Corn for Grain	Bushels	2.42	2.06	1.90	24,476,803	24,381,294	21,040,707
Soybeans	Bushels	7.34	5.74	5.50	18,013,753	17,894,948	16,927,898
All Hay (baled)	Ton	85.50	92.00	98.00	12,006,783	12,211,868	12,491,263
Alfalfa Hay (baled)	Ton	90.80	98.60	106.00	6,724,537	6,973,371	7,319,756
All Other Hay (baled)	Ton	70.90	74.60	76.00	5,282,246	5,238,497	5,171,507
All Wheat	Bushels	3.40	3.40	3.40	7,929,039	7,283,324	7,140,357
Winter Wheat	Bushels	3.27	3.32	3.30	5,597,974	4,948,510	4,924,953
All Potatoes	Cwt.	5.89	5.67	6.90	2,685,822	2,575,204	2,903,137
Sugar Beets ²	Ton	41.40	36.90		1,270,026	1,106,878	
Sorghum for Grain	Cwt.	4.26	3.19	3.04	964,978	843,464	715,327
Barley	Bushels	2.83	2.48	2.45	755,140	698,184	505,962
Dry Edible Beans	Cwt.	18.40	25.70	18.40	422,793	452,871	526,044
Sunflower (all)	Cwt.	12.10	13.70	11.50	316,214	272,732	472,470
Sunflower (oil)	Cwt.	11.30	12.80	10.00	254,076	223,836	329,424
Sunflower (non-oil)	Cwt.	15.20	17.20	16.30	62,138	48,896	143,046
Oats	Bushels	1.48	1.48	1.58	224,910	178,327	187,275
Proso Millet	Bu.	2.95	2.83	3.35	33,730	42,611	45,117

¹ Estimates discontinued in 2005. ² Estimates for 2005 published in July 2006.

Note: All prices in this report are marketing year average prices which do not include allowances or adjustments for commodities under government loan at the end of the marketing year, commodities forfeited to the Commodity Credit Corporation, loan deficiency payments, direct and counter cyclical payments or disaster payments.

Source: USDA NASS Crop Values 2005 Summary, February 2006

2005 county data for wheat and oats is now available at: http://www.nass.usda.gov/Data_and_Statistics/Quick_Stats/index.asp

2005 county data for corn, soybeans, sorghum, and sunflowers will be available after March 1.

Hired Workers Up 3 Percent, Wage Rates Up 3 Percent From a Year Ago

There were 796,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches the week of January 8-14, 2006, up 3 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 616,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees working on farms and ranches made up the remaining 180,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$10.11 per hour during the January 2006 reference week, up 33 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$9.15 per hour, up 44 cents from last January. Livestock workers earned \$9.25 per hour compared with \$9.20 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at

\$9.19 per hour, was up 29 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 38.2 hours for hired workers during the survey week, up 3 percent from a year ago. The largest increases in number of hired farm workers from last year occurred in the Pacific (Oregon and Washington), Corn Belt I (Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio), Delta (Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi), and Northeast II (Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania) regions.

The largest decreases in the number of hired farm workers from a year ago were in California, and in the Southern Plains (Oklahoma and Texas), Northern Plains (Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota), and Appalachian II (Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia) regions.

Farm Labor: Number and Wage Rates for Type of Workers and All Hired Workers, Selected Regions and United States, January 9-15, 2005 & January 8-14, 2006 ¹

Region ²	Hired Workers		Wage Rates							
			All Hired Workers		Type of work					
					Field		Livestock		Field & Livestock	
	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006
	<i>Thousands</i>				<i>Dollars Per Hour</i>					
Lake	43	43	10.61	10.73	9.65	10.33	9.67	9.30	9.66	9.69
Cornbelt I	28	37	10.06	11.33	9.40	11.79	8.95	9.51	9.18	10.55
Cornbelt II	21	25	10.63	11.50	9.16	9.61	10.28	10.69	10.07	10.52
Northern Plains	27	23	9.82	10.31	10.26	10.59	8.60	9.25	9.20	9.75
Southern Plains	50	43	9.56	8.89	8.01	7.53	9.35	8.74	8.75	8.17
Mountain I	12	17	9.76	8.99	9.42	8.68	8.82	8.17	8.95	8.27
Mountain II	17	22	9.93	9.32	7.37	8.12	9.65	8.64	8.83	8.42
United States	589	616	9.78	10.11	8.71	9.15	9.20	9.25	8.90	9.19

¹ Excludes agricultural service workers.

² Regions consist of the following: Lake: Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin; Cornbelt I: Illinois, Indiana, Ohio; Cornbelt II: Iowa, Missouri; Northern Plains: Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota; Southern Plains: Oklahoma, Texas; Mountain I: Idaho, Montana, Wyoming; Mountain II: Colorado, Nevada, Utah.

Source: USDA NASS Farm Labor, February 17, 2006

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